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REPORT OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH

Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998

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Chapter I

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

Resolution 1

Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes*

I

We, the Governments participating in the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, convened by the Government of the Portuguese Republic in cooperation with the United Nations, gathered in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Mindful that both the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 52/83 and the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/55 have welcomed the offer of the Government of Portugal to host a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in cooperation with the United Nations and have requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make the report of the World Conference available to all States Members of the United Nations,

Recalling the achievements of International Youth Year in 1985 and the special sessions of the General Assembly on youth in 1985 and 1995 leading to the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[1]

Recalling that, as suggested in paragraph 123 of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the General Assembly invited regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth to intensify cooperation among each other and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide a global dialogue on youth-related issues,

Taking note of and acknowledging the reports of the second[2] and third[3] sessions of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held in Vienna 1996 and Braga, Portugal, 1998,

Recalling also that the General Assembly in paragraph 124 of the Programme of Action invited youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to cooperate with the regional and interregional conferences and that such bodies and organizations have made contributions to those meetings as well as to this World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth,

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* Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting on 12 August 1998; for the discussion, see chapter VI.

[1] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

[2] A/52/80-E/1997/14, annex.

[3] WCMRY/1998/5.

Recognizing the efforts made by our Governments and societies to respond more effectively to the economic, social, educational, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs of young people and their problems,

Recognizing that youth are a positive force in society and have enormous potential for contributing to development and the advancement of societies,

Recognizing the urgency of creating more and better jobs for young women and young men and the central role of youth employment in facilitating the transition from school to work, thereby reducing crime and drug abuse and ensuring participation and social cohesion,

Noting with concern the situation of youth living in poverty, as well as the special difficulties experienced by different groups of young women and young men such as those involved in or affected by unemployment, drug and substance abuse, violence, including gender-based violence, neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation; youth involved in armed conflicts; refugees and other migrant young people; displaced and parentless youth; young women and young men living with disabilities; indigenous youth; ethnic and cultural youth minorities; young offenders; pregnant adolescents; and other disadvantaged and marginalized young women and young men,

Also noting, with concern, the situation of indigenous youth in many countries, in this International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and taking into consideration the obstacles they face in regard to quality of life, participation and access to education, services and opportunity,

Taking note of the achievements made since the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing 1995, and bearing in mind the constraints and obstacles that still impede the full participation of women in all sectors of society, and particularly that of girls and young women,

Having regard for the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[5] and having regard also for the progress achieved in the implementation by States parties of other human rights instruments and standards such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,[6] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[8]

Also having regard for the recommendations arising from major United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and the World Conference on Education for All, which adopted the Declaration on Education for All, the

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[4] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[5] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

World Food Summit, which adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action, and the International Labour Conference at its 86th session, which adopted the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,

Recognizing that the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and actions in favour of young women and young men are the responsibility of each country and should take into account the economic, social and environmental diversity of conditions in each country, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened, that it is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support, and that in different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist; also recognizing that young women and young men who enter into marriage must do so with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husbands and wives should be equal partners,

WE THEREFORE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Ensuring that national youth policy formulation, implementation and follow-up processes are, at appropriate level, accorded commitment from the highest political levels, including the provision of adequate levels of resources;

2. Developing national youth policies and operational programmes, at appropriate levels, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, taking into account the national priorities, realities and limitations arising from different socio-economic and cultural development contexts;

3. Establishing the necessary policies and programmes by the year 2000 to improve living standards for young women and young men and to permit the effective implementation of national youth policies, of an intersectoral nature, foreseen, among others, in the Programme of Action;

4. Reviewing the situation of youth and their needs and incorporating young people's own assessment of priorities, through their participation in a consultative process, and ensuring that young women and young men actively contribute to the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and local youth policies, programmes and action plans;

5. Developing capacity building through the empowerment of formal and informal coalitions and networks of youth;

6. Strengthening responsible partnerships among all key stakeholders, especially youth networks, non-governmental youth institutions and organizations and other non-governmental organizations also including young women, particularly the girl-child, and young men, their families, governments, international agencies, educational institutions, civil society, the business sector and media in order to create synergies to better address youth potentials and problems both at national and at local levels;

7. Introducing measurable time-bound goals and indicators to allow a common basis for national evaluation of the implementation of the above-mentioned policies;

8. Supporting bilateral, subregional, regional and international exchange of best practices at the national level in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of youth policy, and the provision of appropriate development tools and technical assistance, through the creation of networks;

9. Ensuring the mainstreaming of national youth policy and international development, plans and programmes;

PARTICIPATION

10. Ensuring and encouraging the active participation of youth in all spheres of society and in decision-making processes at the national, regional and international levels and ensuring that the necessary gender-sensitive measures are taken in order to attain equal access of young women and young men and by creating the conditions necessary for the fulfilment of their civic duties;

11. Promoting education, training in democratic processes and the spirit of citizenship and civic responsibility of young women and young men with the view to strengthening and facilitating their commitment to, participation in and full integration into society;

12. Facilitating access by youth to legislative and policy-making bodies, through their representatives, in order to involve them closely in the formulation, execution, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of youth activities and programmes and to ensure their participation in development;

13. Upholding and reinforcing policies that allow independent and democratic forms of associative life, including the elimination of identified obstacles to youth participation and to freedom of association in the work place;

14. Giving higher priority to marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged young women and young men, especially those who are separated from their families and children living and/or working in the streets, with adequate programmes, actions and necessary funding, inter alia, in order to provide them with the means and motivation to contribute effectively to their societies;

15. Giving priority to the building of communication channels with youth in order to give them a voice, at the national, regional and international levels, and to give them the information they need to help them prepare for participation and leadership roles;

16. Encouraging youth voluntarism as an important form of youth participation;

DEVELOPMENT

17. Ensuring the right to development of all young women and young men;

18. Promoting access of young women and young men to land, credit, technologies and information, thereby enhancing the opportunities and development resources of young people living within rural and remote communities;

19. Ensuring actions to promote equal access to and use of new information technologies by young women and young men once those are a privileged instrument to progressively reduce or eliminate inequalities and foster development;

20. Enhancing the role of youth organizations in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of national development plans and programmes;

21. Establishing or strengthening, as appropriate, a policy to combat poverty and ensuring actions on the alleviation of poverty, and recognizing the needs of young women and young men to adequate housing by ensuring safe, healthy and secure living and environmental and working conditions, including shelter, and to integrate youth concerns into all relevant national and local policies and programmes by supporting the ability of youth to play an active and creative role in the management and development of human settlements so that they can effectively contribute to the improvement of living and environmental conditions not only for themselves but also for their communities and society at large;

22. Encouraging awareness and commitment among young women and young men to sustainable development principles and practices, especially in regard to environmental protection, and supporting the actions of youth in promoting those principles in cooperation between countries, based on their mutual needs and common interests;

23. Recalling that the family unit has a vital role to play in the integration of youth into society by acting as an agent of transition, a facilitator of learning and education, a provider of emotional and economic support, a transmitter of values and a contributor to the formation and development of young women and young men as responsible adults; specific programmes and mechanisms should be created or reinforced within an integrated perspective of families;

24. Recognizing the need for a gender-balanced perspective in line with the concerns identified by the Economic and Social Council during the operational activities for development segment of its 1998 substantive session;

25. Encouraging bilateral, regional and international cooperation to create an enabling environment at the national and international levels in order to ensure the full participation of young women and young men in economic and social development;

26. Discouraging the adoption of and refraining from any unilateral measure, not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular young women and young men, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights;

27. Taking measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating any negative impact of economic sanctions on young women and young men;

PEACE

28. Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security, namely by taking effective collective measures against different forms of violence and any threat to peace by suppressing acts of aggression and by promoting a peaceful resolution of disputes, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law;

29. Bearing in mind the important role of youth in promoting peace and non-violence, measures should be taken in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including international standards of human rights, aiming at preventing the participation and involvement of youth in all acts of violence, particularly acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, xenophobia and racism, foreign occupation, and trafficking in arms and drugs;

30. Strengthening the role of youth and youth organizations in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, inter alia, on the basis of the resolutions and treaties of the United Nations and the Security Council and the promotion of intercultural learning, civic education, tolerance, human rights education and democracy towards mutual respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, responsibility, solidarity and international cooperation, as a means of preventing conflicts and distressed circumstances;

31. Encouraging, as appropriate, the role of youth in working towards general and complete disarmament under effective international control, including disarmament of all types of weapons of mass destruction;

32. Building an effective culture of peace and tolerance by putting into practice a global system of education and training for peace, aimed at social progress, fighting inequalities and recognizing the importance of dialogue and cooperation behind lines of conflict, in order to promote tolerance, respect and mutual understanding;

33. Assisting youth and youth organizations in making a substantial input into the celebration of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in the year 2000;

34. Preventing the participation, involvement and recruitment of children in armed conflicts, in accordance with international law;

35. Promoting and protecting the rights of peoples, including youth, living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, particularly those peoples' right to self-determination;

36. Mobilizing youth for the reconstruction of areas devastated by war, bringing help to refugees and war victims and promoting reconciliation and rehabilitation activities;

37. Ensuring that young women and young men live within an environment free from threat, conflict, all forms of violence, maltreatment and exploitation;

EDUCATION

38. Promoting education in all its aspects, namely formal and non-formal education, as well as functional literacy and training for young women and young men and life-long learning, thereby facilitating the integration of youth into the labour market;

39. Guaranteeing to young women and young men equal access to and continuity of basic good quality education, especially in rural areas and among the urban poor, aimed at eradicating illiteracy;

40. Setting national time-bound goals for the expansion of equal access for young women and young men to secondary and higher education and for the improvement of the quality of that education;

41. Ensuring that young women and young men are well informed about their human rights, inter alia, through education;

42. Offering adequate training in modern communication techniques and in media literacy as they have an impact on youth and their behaviour;

43. Providing for the rehabilitation and, where appropriate, the reintegration of young women and young men from juvenile detention and incarceration into society, especially in the educational setting;

44. Designing new strategies focusing on youth in distress and in violent circumstances, aimed at ending exclusion, offering renewed learning opportunities for early school leavers and continuous learning and training opportunities for both employed and unemployed youth;

45. Supporting family structures, especially assistance to the poor, and providing the necessary resources to family and schools dealing with young women and young men with physical and mental disabilities;

46. Reinforcing and designing new partnerships to enable young women and young men to learn, create and express themselves through cultural, physical and sports activities for the benefit of their balanced physical, intellectual, artistic, moral, emotional and spiritual development, as well as their social integration;

47. Allocating resources to vocational training and ensuring that education and training systems correspond to economic, social and entrepreneurial realities based on identified needs and technological advancements;

48. Developing education policies that support all young women and young men in gaining access to an education that corresponds to their specific capacities and potentials, while paying special attention to socially disadvantaged youth;

49. Encouraging the inclusion of issues such as family life education, reproductive health, including the adverse consequences of traditional practices

that are harmful to the health of young women and girls, and drug and substance abuse prevention in the design of school curricula, as well as in extracurricular activities;

50. Encouraging youth participation in community work as an important part of the education system;

51. Supporting, as appropriate, students' organizations by creating the conditions for the exercise of their rights and providing them with the necessary means to enable them to discharge their roles and responsibilities;

52. Establishing and developing sport, cultural and recreational activities among young women and young men aimed at promoting and strengthening sport and cultural exchanges at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

EMPLOYMENT

53. Affirming the ultimate societal goal of full employment so as to ensure that equal opportunities are available to young women and young men for income-earning work;

54. Promoting equal employment opportunities for young people as well as equal protection against discrimination, including in wage payments, in accordance with national employment legislation, regardless of ethnic or national origin, race, gender, disability, political belief, creed or religion, or social, cultural or economic background;

55. Promoting equal employment opportunities for young women, inter alia, by adopting and implementing laws against sex-based discrimination in the labour market as well as legislation to guarantee the rights of young women and young men to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

56. Improving complementary partnerships among public authorities, the private sector and educational institutions, along with civil society initiatives, for the promotion of youth employment;

57. Promoting research on youth unemployment, taking into account market trends and demands, in order to design and implement youth employment policies and programmes, with due regard to gender-specific circumstances;

58. Investing in the entrepreneurial capacity of young women and young men and providing them with the necessary skills and resources to establish their own enterprises and businesses;

59. Taking effective measures to secure the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including support to the ongoing negotiations towards the finalization by the International Labour Organization of a future instrument addressing this issue, and measures to protect young women and young men against other forms of exploitation, including through sex tourism, prostitution, trafficking in human beings and bondage and any kind of labour, paid or unpaid, which negatively affects their mental, physical, social and moral development, with due regard to the particular situation of young women;

60. Promoting employment-oriented education and training to ensure the constant adjustment of education to the changing social and economic environment, including market needs;

61. Promoting the development of mechanisms for career counselling for youth through educational and training institutions as well as the community;

62. Promoting a greater national and international commitment to the protection of youth migrant workers, with attention to their enjoyment of human rights, their social needs and their prevention from exploitation;

63. Promoting youth entrepreneurship in rural areas with a view to assisting youth to embark on self-managing and self-financing activities;

HEALTH

64. Promoting equal health development for young women and young men, and preventing and responding to health problems by creating safe and supportive environments, providing information and building skills and access to health services, including counselling, involving the family unit, peer groups, schools, media health services and other partners;

65. Combating treatable diseases, and preventing and responding to non-treatable diseases by establishing workable partnerships between developed and developing countries and promoting information and vaccination campaigns, involving the family unit, peer groups, schools, media, health services and other partners in order to build capacity, with special attention to young women and young men;

66. Creating the political, legal, material and social conditions that allow access to basic health care with adequate youth-friendly services and that pay particular attention to information and prevention programmes, with special attention to major diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, onchocerciasis (river blindness) and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera;

67. Recognizing that the consumption of tobacco and the abuse of alcohol by young women and young men pose a major threat to their health, support the development in each country of comprehensive programmes to reduce the consumption of tobacco, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and the abuse of alcohol;

68. Elaborating programmes of information, education, communication and campaign awareness among young women and young men to fight HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases;

69. Recognizing the special health needs of young women and young men with mental or physical disabilities and ensuring their rehabilitation and reintegration in order to promote self-reliance;

70. Promoting humanitarian land-mine activities and increasing land-mine awareness among children and youth, in particular in countries affected by anti-personnel land-mines;

71. Recognizing and supporting the important role of the family unit, youth organizations and non-governmental organizations as the best mechanism to provide an enabling environment for a healthy life through the provision of knowledge, information, skills and motivation;

72. Formulating policies favourable to the development in rural and poor urban areas of health programmes, including safe water supply, sanitation, and waste disposal, taking into account the specific needs of young women and young men for a healthy environment;

73. Recognizing the importance of general health care, including reproductive health care, and establishing a dependable database on youth reproductive health and providing for information dissemination and for youth-friendly and gender-equitable services in order to ensure the physical, mental and social well being of young women and young men, as well as access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable legal methods of family planning of their choice;

74. Intensifying efforts and actions towards international cooperation concerning health relief under natural disasters and other emergencies;

75. Recognizing the problem of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and other types of violence against young women and young men, and taking effective measures for their prevention, such as those outlined at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996;

76. Ensuring full protection of young women and young men from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, and promoting the physical and psychological recovery and the social and economic reintegration of the victim;

DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

77. Recognizing the repeated references to youth in the documents adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem;[9]

78. Raising the awareness of youth, in partnership with young women and young men and youth organizations, of the dangers of drug abuse of both licit and illicit substances and promoting alternatives so that young people can move towards life styles that are healthy and free from substance abuse, and mobilizing the community at different levels to participate fully in drug prevention efforts;

79. Collaborating, in partnership with young women and young men and with youth organizations, on strategies aiming at preventing abuse, reducing the demand for drugs, combating drug abuse and trafficking and promoting support for treatment for and rehabilitation of drug abusers focusing on their social reintegration and for their families;

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[9] See General Assembly resolutions S-20/2, S-20/3 and S-20/4.

80. Strengthening international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation and increasing efforts towards demand reduction and efforts to fight against illicit production, supply and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

81. Instituting strong measures aimed at restricting and/or preventing access to drugs by young women and young men;

WE WILL THEREFORE AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING

82. To invite all relevant United Nations programmes, funds and the specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes;

83. To promote at the national, regional and international levels research, data collection, statistical compilation and wide dissemination of the findings of such research and studies;

84. To invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider strengthening the Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat and to submit proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on ways and means to achieve that;

85. To invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to participate actively in the effective follow-up to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 52/83 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 and within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

86. To implement coordinated and cooperative systems among the regional commissions and organizations and ministerial and other meetings in their youth-related activities, and to prepare, to allocate the necessary funding for and to ensure the follow-up of the recommendations of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;

87. To urge interested Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make increased financial contributions to the United Nations Youth Fund and to set up an advisory body to this fund to provide guidance both on fund raising strategies and on project formulation, implementation and evaluation to follow up the World Conference with specific youth projects;[10]

88. We hereby adopt and commit ourselves as Governments to implement the above-mentioned measures and to foster the further implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, with the active participation of youth, ensuring that young people's unique perspective is reflected in our national policies and programmes.

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[10] See para. 139 of the Programme of Action (Assembly resolution 50/81, annex).

Resolution 2

Proclamation of 12 August as International Youth Day*

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth,

Meeting in the city of Lisbon, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Portugal, from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Considering that this date marks the opening of the first World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in accordance with the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

Considering also that there is currently no globally recognized date for commemorating, carrying out activities on and raising awareness of the problems and aspirations of young people of all nations, in a framework of peace, solidarity and participation,

1. Proposes the proclamation of 12 August as International Youth Day.

Resolution 3

Oceans: a heritage for coming generations*

As the theme of the oceans is one of the most important environmental issues for future generations,

Taking into account that:

(a) 1998 and 1999 are crucial years for international cooperation on the oceans and that the United Nations General Assembly has designated 1998 "International Year of the Oceans",

(b) The theme of the World Exhibition in Lisbon is "The Oceans: A Heritage for the Future" - in other words, for youth and for generations to come

(c) The World Commission on the Oceans will publish its report at the end of August 1998,

Also bearing in mind that the central theme of the agenda of the Commission on Sustainable Development for 1999 following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) will be the oceans,

Recommends that initiatives to raise the level of education on and awareness of ocean issues should be encouraged and supported among young people all over the world so that they can participate effectively, in an informed manner, with civic commitment and a spirit of solidarity in preserving and enhancing the oceans as the heritage of humanity, as essential components of our planet's global balance and of the well-being of present and future generations.

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* Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting on 12 August 1998; for the discussion, see chapter III.

Resolution 4

Expression of thanks to the people and Government of the Portuguese Republic*

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth,

Having met in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998 at the invitation of the Government of Portugal,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Jorge Sampaio, President of the Portuguese Republic, to His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, and to the Government of the Portuguese Republic for having made it possible for the Conference to be held in Lisbon and for the excellent facilities, staff and services so graciously placed at its disposal;

2. Expresses its deep appreciation to His Excellency Mr. José Sócrates, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, and President of the Conference, for his leadership and contribution to the successful outcome of the Conference;

3. Also expresses its appreciation to the United Nations for its cooperation with the Government of the Portuguese Republic for the successful organization of the Conference;

4. Requests the Government of the Portuguese Republic to convey to the city of Lisbon and to the people of Portugal the gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

Resolution 5

Credentials of representatives to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth**

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee[11] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

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* Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting on 12 August 1998; for the discussion, see chapter VIII.

** Adopted at the 8th plenary meeting on 12 August 1998; for the discussion, see chapter V.

[11] WCMRY/1998/27.

Chapter II

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth was held at Lisbon, Portugal, from 8 to 12 August 1998. During that period, the Conference held 8 Plenary meetings.

B. Pre-Conference consultations

2. Pre-Conference consultations open to all States invited to participate in the Conference were held at Lisbon on 8 August 1998 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. These informal consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Miguel Fontes, Secretary of State for Youth of the Portuguese Republic.

C. Attendance

3. The following States were represented at the Conference:

Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland

Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

4. Palestine was represented by an observer.

5. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers:

British Virgin Islands
Macau
Puerto Rico

6. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

7. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, UNAIDS and United Nations Volunteers.

8. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Commonwealth Secretariat, Instituto Americano de Cooperación para la Agricultura, International Organization of Migration, Organization of African Unity, and Organization of American States.

10. A large number of non-governmental organizations attended the Conference. The accredited non-governmental organizations are specified in document WCMRY/1998/4.

D. Opening of the Conference

11. The Conference was declared open by His Excellency Mr. Miguel Fontes, Secretary of State for Youth of Portugal, on behalf of the President of the Portuguese Republic.

12. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Mr. Jorge Sampaio, addressed the Conference.

13. At the same meeting the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, addressed the Conference.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, addressed the Conference.

E. Election of the President

15. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. José Socrates, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic.

F. Adoption of the rules of procedure

16. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure (WCMRY/1998/2), as recommended by the pre-Conference consultations.

G. Adoption of the agenda

17. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (WCMRY/1998/1), as recommended by the pre-Conference consultations. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work of the Conference.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. Outcome of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

9. General exchange of views on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond:

   (a) National youth policies of an intersectoral nature;

   (b) Relevance of the three themes of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

   (c) Social development and major priority issues for action: education, employment, health, drug abuse and others.

10. Report of the Main Committee.

11. Adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes.

12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

H. Election of officers other than the President

18. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the Conference endorsed the recommendations of the pre-Conference consultations concerning the composition of the General Committee.

19. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Vice-Presidents from the following regional groups:

African States: Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and South Africa;

Asian States: China, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic;

Eastern European States: Azerbaijan, Czech Republic and Romania;

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay;

Western European and other States: Andorra, Australia, Greece, Luxembourg, Sweden and United States of America.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Conference elected Her Excellency Ms. Filomena Martins, Director-General of Support, Research and Planning Office of the Secretary of State of Youth Affairs, of the Portuguese Republic as ex officio Vice-President from the host country.

21. At the same meeting the Conference elected, by acclamation, His Excellency the Honourable Mr. J. K. Marirmoi, Assistant Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services of Kenya as Rapporteur-General.

I. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

22. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the Conference approved its organization of work as contained in document WCMRY/1998/3.

J. Election of the Chairperson of the Main Committee

23. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Her Excellency Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State for Children, Youth, Human Resources Development of Canada, as Chairperson of the Main Committee.

K. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

24. At the first meeting, on 8 August, in accordance with the recommendation of the pre-Conference consultations, the Conference approved the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document WCMRY/1998/4.

L. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

25. At the first plenary meeting, on 8 August, in conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference and on the recommendation of the pre-Conference consultations, the Conference established a Credentials Committee composed of Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Zambia, on the understanding that if one of those States did not participate in the Conference, it would be replaced by another State from the same regional group.

26. At the fourth plenary meeting, on 10 August, Bhutan, which was not present at the Conference, was replaced by the Philippines on the Credentials Committee.

Chapter III

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND

1. The Conference held a general exchange of views on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (agenda item 9) at the 1st to 7th plenary meetings, from 8 to 11 August 1998. Representatives of States, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, programmes and offices, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and observers for associate members of the regional commissions addressed the Conference. All speakers expressed their appreciation for the efforts made by the host Government in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations in preparing for the Conference.

2. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by H.E. Dr. José Gregori, National Secretary for Human Rights, Brazil; H.E. Mr. Mohammad Shakir Saeed, Minister for Youth and Sports, Syrian Arab Republic; H.E. Ms. Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, United States of America; H.E. Ms. Huang Danhua, Representative at the Ministerial Level Responsible for Youth, China; H.E. The Honourable Mr. Pierre S. Pettigrew, Minister of Human Resources Development, Canada; H.E. Mr. Joseph Owona, Minister of Youth and Sports, Cameroon; H.E. Mr. Janis Gaigals, Minister of Education and Science, Latvia; H.E. Mr. Petros Sfikakis, Secretary-General of Youth, Greece; H.E. Ms. Livia Turco, Minister for Social Solidarity, Italy; H.E. The Honourable Mr. Jonetani Kaukimoce, Minister for Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports, Fiji; H.E. Mr. George Crin Antonescu, Minister of Youth and Sports, Romania; H.E. Mrs. Lilian Urrutia, National Director of Youth, Chile; H.E. Mr. Talal Al-Hassan, Minister of Youth, Jordan; H.E. Mr. Eduard Zeman, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, Czech Republic; H.E. Mr. Ahmed Moussaoui, Minister of Youth and Sport, Morocco; Dr. Pavel Zgaga, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Sport, Slovenia; H.E. Mr. Jassem Mohammad Al-Own, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Kuwait; H.E. Mr. Mait Klaassen, Minister of Education, Estonia; and H.E. Mr. Iba Gueye, Minister of Youth and Sports, Senegal.

3. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Aziz Derouaz, Minister of Youth and Sports, Algeria; H.E. Mr. Othman Al-Sa'ad, Deputy of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare, Saudi Arabia; H.E. Mr. Mansoungral Nassingar, Minister of Culture, Youth and the Promotion of Sports, Chad; H.E. Ms. Andrea Willi, Minister for Culture and Youth, Liechtenstein; H.E. S. B. Dissanaike, Minister of Youth Affairs, Sports and Samurdhi, Sri Lanka; H.E. Dr. Moufeed Shehab, Minister of Higher Education, Egypt; H.E. Mr. Tran Dac Loi, Secretary for International Affairs of the National Committee on Youth, Viet Nam; H.E. Mr. Otto Riveiro Torres, First Secretary of the Young Communist Union, Cuba; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund; H.E. Ms. Sylla Koumba Kiakite, Minister of Youth, Sports and Education, Guinea; H.E. Ms. Pamela Nicholson, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago; H.E. Mr. Daw Swedan, Deputy Secretary-General, League of Arab States (intergovernmental organization); Mr. A. Parsuramen, Director of Secondary Education and Vocational Training, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; H.E. Mr. Joseph André Tiendrebeogo, Minister of Youth and Sports, Burkina Faso; H.E. Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme; H.E. Mr. Leota Lu II, Minister of Youth and Sport, Samoa; Ms. Sally Cowal, Director for External Relations, Joint United Nations Programme

on HIV/AIDS; Mr. Julio Baugo, Latin American Youth Forum (non-governmental organization); Mr. Ali Coura Diop, Pan-African Youth Movement (non-governmental organization); and Mr. Thomas Tichelmann, European Youth Forum (non-governmental organization).

4. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 10 August, statements were made by H.E. Mrs. Carme Sala-Sansa, Minister of Youth, Education and Sports, Andorra; H.E. Dr. José da Rocha S. De Castro, Minister of Youth and Sport, Angola; H.E. E. T. Mensah, Minister of Youth and Sports, Ghana; H.E. Brigadier-General Pyi Sone, Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Agung Laksono, Minister for Youth and Sport Affairs, Indonesia; H.E. Mr. Sh. Batbayar, Minister of Health, Mongolia; H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Marhoon Al-Mamary, Minister, President of the General Organization for Youth, Sports and Cultural Activities, Oman; H.E. Mr. Božidar Pugelnik, Minister of Education and Sports, Croatia; H.E. Mr. Patrick Pillay, Minister of Youth and Culture, Seychelles; H.E. Mr. Christian Enock Lagnide, Minister for Youth, Benin; H.E. Dr. Reinhard Wabnltz, Director General for Youth Questions, Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany; H.E. Mr. B. K. Temane, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Botswana; H.E. Mr. Raouf Najar, Minister of Youth and Culture, Tunisia; Mr. Reuben Fenech, Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport, Culture and the Arts, Malta; H.E. Alfred Sasako, Minister for State Assisting the Prime Minister, Solomon Islands; H.E. Mr. Alex Bodry, Minister of Youth, Luxembourg; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Self Khatib, Acting Minister for Labour and Youth Development, United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Mr. Ahmed T. H. Ayazji, Secretary for Youth and Sports, Head of Delegation, Palestine; H.E. Mr. Kazimierz Kapera, Minister for Family Affairs, Poland; H.E. Mr. Boubacar Karamoko Coulibaly, Minister for Promotion of Youth, Mali; Ms. Christina Mira Santos and Mr. Jamal Harim Bin Adbullah, World Organization of Scout Movement (non-governmental organization); Mr. Olivier Meier, World Federation of Democratic Youth (non-governmental organization); and Ms. Nathalie Fisher (World Young Women's Christian Association (non-governmental organization).

5. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 10 August, statements were made by H.E. The Honourable Sir Humphrey Maud KCMG, Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat (intergovernmental organizations), H.E. Mr. David Stretlf, Director, Federal Office of Culture, Switzerland; Ms. Janat B. Mukwaya, Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda; H.E. Dr. Sheikh Mohamed bin Eid Al-Thani, Head of Delegation and President of the Youth and Sports General Authority, Qatar; H.E. Dr. Alpha T. Wurie, Minister of Youth, Education and Sports, Sierra Leone; H.E. M. Gérard-Philippe Nyamwiza, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Burundi; H.E. Mr. Ndalia Claude Hernest, Minister of Redeployment of Youth, Sports and In Charge of Civic Education, Congo; H.E. Monsignor Stanislaw Rylko, Secretary of the Pontifical Council of the Laity, Holy See; H.E. Mr. Gomez Nduba Kimbaya, Minister of Youth and Sports, Democratic Republic of the Congo; H.E. Mr. Hugo Estigarribia Gutiérrez, Vice-Minister of Youth, Ministry of Education and Culture, Paraguay; H.E. Mr. Abdoul Rahamane Seydou, Minister of Youth, Sports and National Solidarity, Niger; H.E. Mr. Abulfaz Garayev, Minister of Youth and Sport, Azerbaijan; H.E. Mr. Yousuf Abdulfatah, Minister for Youth, Sudan; H.E. Mr. Morteza Mirbagheri, Advisor to the President, Secretary of the Supreme Council of Youth, Islamic Republic of Iran; H.E. Mr. Domingo Contreras, Director General for the Promotion of Youth, Dominican Republic; His Royal Highness Prince Guduza Diamini, Minister for Home Affairs, Swaziland; Mr. Mikael Sjköberg, Deputy Minister for the Interior, who gave his speaking

position to Ms. Camilla Lindqvist, National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations, Sweden; H.E. Ms. Veronika Holzer, Ministry for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs, Austria; H.E. Mr. Ali Mursi Shaari, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Youth and Sports, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Director, Division of Evaluation, Policy and Planning, on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund; H.E. Mr. Mohammad S. Y. Gazdar, representative of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (intergovernmental organization); H.E. Mr. Pedro Moreira, Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, Cape Verde; H.E. Mr. Bea Bertin, Minister of Youth and Sport, Central African Republic; Mr. Saifuddin Aboullah, Informal Group of Asia-Pacific Non-governmental organizations; Ms. Adela Rodrigues, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres and the ATD Fourth World Movement (non-governmental organization); and Mr. Ernest Gyimah-Danquah, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (non-governmental organization).

6. At the 6th plenary meeting, on 11 August, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Bhaskar Barua, Secretary of the Government, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, India; H.E. Mr. Olli Saarela, Ministry of Education, Head of Youth Division, Finland; H.E. Mr. O. Nemcok, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Slovak Republic; H.E. Mr. S. M. K. Soonarane, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mauritius; H.E. Dr. Jacques Bihozagara, Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Education, Rwanda; H.E. Zhivargo Laing, M.P., Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Bahamas; H.E. Mr. Hasan Jashari, Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; H.E. Dr. Essop Pahad, Deputy Minister for the Office of the Deputy-President, South Africa; Ms. Lilian Halls French, Technical Advisor, Ministry of Youth and Sports, France; H.E. Mr. A. S. M. Shahjahan, Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Bangladesh; H.E. Mr. Lee Dong-ik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Portuguese Republic; H.E. Mr. S. V. Grushchak, Vice-Minister of Labour, Russian Federation; H.E. Ms. María Dobles, Vice-Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports, Costa Rica; H.E. Dr. Bounpone Bouttanavong, Secretary-General of the Central Committee, Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Lao People's Democratic Republic; H.E. Mr. Jorge Asis, Ambassador, Argentina; H.E. Dr. Abdul-Jabbar Towfik Mohammed, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Iraq, H.E. Mr. Colin Walters, First Assistant Secretary, International Section, Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Australia; H.E. Mr. Luis I. Sanchez Gomez, Director-General of the Ministry of Public Education, Mexico; and H.E. Mr. Jakob Wendell, Head of Division, Ministry of Education, Denmark.

7. At the 7th plenary meeting, on 11 August, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Akhtar Ali G. Qazi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Portuguese Republic; Ms. Jane Ferguson, Chief, Adolescent Health and Development, Family and Reproductive Health, World Health Organization; H.E. Ambassador A. Haggag, Assistant Secretary-General, Organization of African Unity (intergovernmental organization); H.E. Mrs. Lillian Patel, Minister for Women, Youth and Community Services, Malawi; H.E. Mr. Miguel Fontes, Secretary of State for Youth, Portugal; H.E. Mr. Philippe Allard, Cabinet of the Ministry of Culture and Youth, Belgium; H.E. Mr. Odd Anders With, State Secretary, Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, Norway; H.E. Ms. Vilija Blinkeviciute, Vice-Minister of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania; H.E. Mr. Yitzhak Levy, Minister of Education, Israel; H.E. Mr. Andreas S. Taliadoros, Chairman of the Cyprus Youth Board, Cyprus; H.E. Mr. Homammad J. Samhan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, United Arab Emirates; H.E. Mr. Shinichi Kuyama, Associate

Director-General, Youth Affairs Administration, Management and Coordination Agency, Japan; H.E. Mohammed K. Ndanusa, Chargé d'Affaires, Nigerian Embassy in Portugal, Nigeria; H.E. Ms. Susana Seto Miyamoto, Vice-Minister for Education, Peru; H.E. Ms. Isabel Caro Wilson, Ambassador to Spain of the Philippines; H.E. Mr. Peter Wootsch, Secretary of State, Office of the Prime Minister, Hungary; H.E. Mr. Prasit Damrongchai, Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister, Thailand; H.E. Mr. Diego Arzú García-Granados, President of the National Council of Youth, Guatemala; H.E. Mr. Everton Hannam, First Secretary, Embassy of Jamaica to Cuba; H.E. D. Maria Do Rosario Barros, Director-General of the Cabinet for the Promotion of Women, Family and Youth, Sao Tome and Principe; H.E. Mr. Necati Utkan, Deputy Under-Secretary and Spokesman for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkey; Mr. William Andrianasolo, United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Development Programme; H.E. Mr. Barchovski, President of the Committee for Youth, Physical Education and Sport, Bulgaria; Mr. Gek-Boo Ng, Chief, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch, Employment and Training Department, International Labour Office; Mr. Selman Erguden, Youth Focal Point, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements; H.E. Mr. Tesfay Sodano, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Responsible for Youth, Ethiopia; Mrs. Thenjiwe Lesabe, Minister of National Affairs Employment Creation and Cooperatives, Zimbabwe; H.E. Mr. H. T. Hishongwa, Deputy Minister for Youth and Sport, Namibia; Mr. Monty Roberts, Minister of Housing, Youth, Sports and Community Services, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; H.E. Mr. Sam Kip Cheah, Ambassador to Spain, Malaysia; H.E. Mrs. Maneo Rosemary Ntsonyana, Director of Youth, Lesotho; H.E. Mr. J. K. Marirmoi, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services, Kenya; Ms. Elena M. Suarez, Inter American Development Bank; Mr. Peter Lauritzen, Executive Director, Council of Europe (intergovernmental organization); Ms. Kristine Sorensen, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (non-governmental organization); Ms. Anna Bartome, Informal NGO Caucus on Youth and Health (non-governmental organization); Mr. Freddy Knutsen, World Council of Churches (non-governmental organization); and Ms. Charmaine Graves, NGO Coalition for Youth and Family (non-governmental organization).

Action taken by the Conference

Proclamation of 12 August as International Youth Day

8. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 12 August 1998, the representative of Panama introduced, on behalf of Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Mozambique, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Venezuela, a draft resolution (WCMRY/1998/L.6) entitled "Proclamation of 8 August as International Youth Day".

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Mali made a statement proposing 12 August as International Youth Day, after which a statement was made by the representative of Botswana.

10. At the same meeting the Conference adopted the draft resolution, as revised (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 2).

Appeal for the formation of continental networks and sub-networks of governmental bodies and/or national mechanisms for youth

11. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 12 August 1998, the representative of the Dominican Republic introduced, on behalf of Angola, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela, a draft resolution (WCMRY/1998/L.8) entitled "Appeal for the formation of continental networks and sub-networks of governmental and/or national mechanisms for youth", which read as follows:

"The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth,

"Meeting in Lisbon from 6 to 8 August 1998,

"1. Stresses the importance of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond in each of the areas of the programme, considering as an example some of the subregional efforts with respect to youth policies, for example, the Programme of Action for the Development of Latin American Youth and the Lisbon Declaration with respect to national youth and participation policies,

"2. Adopts the Lisbon Declaration on youth policies and programmes, as it relates to national youth policies in its article 8 and participation in its article 10,

"3. Considers it necessary to follow up at the continental, regional and subregional levels the agreements reached at the Conference,

"Recommends that the General Assembly of the United Nations, in the context of the convening of the Conference, support the establishment of continental networks and sub-networks of governmental bodies and/or national mechanisms for youth for the purpose of:

"(a) Following up the agreements of this Conference;

"(b) Creating, developing and strengthening permanent bonds of mutual cooperation between governmental bodies or national mechanisms for youth;

"(c) Coordinating regional and subregional actions at the continental level in order to promote policies, programmes and projects to benefit youth;

"(d) Serving as valid spokesmen with governmental and non-governmental bodies in the establishment of cooperative relationships to assist the networks and the countries represented in them."

12. At the same meeting statements were made by the representatives of Germany and the United States, after which the President of the Conference made a statement.

13. The draft resolution was subsequently withdrawn by its sponsors.

Oceans: a heritage for coming generations

14. At the 8th meeting, on 12 August 1998, the representative of Portugal introduced, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe,

Slovenia, South Africa and Spain, a draft resolution (WCMRY/1998/L.12) entitled "Oceans: a heritage for coming generations".

15. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft resolution (for the text see chap. I, resolution 3).

Chapter IV

REPORT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 8 August 1998, the Conference endorsed the recommendations concerning the organization of its work, as set out in document WCMRY/1998/3, and decided to allocate agenda item 11 (Adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes) to the Main Committee, which was to submit its recommendations to the Conference. At the same meeting, the Conference also endorsed the recommendation to establish working groups of the Main Committee to consider the following three themes enumerated under agenda item 9 (General exchange of views on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond):

(a) National youth policies of an intersectoral nature;

(b) Relevance of the three themes of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

(c) Social development and major priority issues for action: education, employment, health, drug abuse and others.

2. The Committee agreed that the summaries, as orally revised, would be annexed to the final report of the Conference.

3. The Main Committee held three meetings, from 9 to 12 August 1998. It also held a number of informal meetings.

4. The Main Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Conference secretariat transmitting the draft Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (WCMRY/1998/L.1);

(b) Note by the Conference secretariat transmitting additional proposals for the draft Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (WCMRY/1998/L.2);

(c) Note verbale dated 6 August 1998 from the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (WCMRY/1998/26).

5. The Chairperson of the Main Committee was Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew (Canada), who was elected by acclamation at the 1st plenary meeting of the Conference, on 8 August.

6. At its 1st meeting, on 9 August, the Main Committee elected Andorra, Chile, Greece, Paraguay, the Philippines, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa and the Syrian Arab Republic as Vice-Chairpersons by acclamation.

7. At the same meeting, the Main Committee designated Ms. Isabel Wilson (Philippines) Chairperson of the working groups. Summaries of the discussion of the working groups on each of the three themes were submitted by the Chairperson and are annexed to the present report.

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 August, Mr. Percival Mofokeng (South Africa) was designated as Rapporteur.

9. At the 1st meeting, the representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme made a statement.

10. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the following observers for non-governmental organizations: World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and World Council of Churches.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT LISBON DECLARATION

11. At the 1st to 3rd meetings, on 9, 11 and 12 August, the Main Committee considered the draft Lisbon Declaration (WCMRY/1998/L.1).

12. At the 1st meeting, on 9 August, statements were made by the representatives of the Holy See, Belgium, Argentina, South Africa, France, Australia, Germany, the Syrian Arab Republic, Botswana, Algeria, Senegal, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Viet Nam.

13. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 August, the Chairperson of the Committee made a statement.

14. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out revisions to the draft declaration which had been agreed to during informal consultations.

15. Statements were made by the representatives of France, Greece, the United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Turkey, Uganda, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Morocco.

16. The ex officio Vice-President of the Conference and the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded to points raised.

17. At its 3rd meeting, on 12 August, the Committee had before it a text of the draft Lisbon declaration (WCMRY/1998/L.10), which had been submitted as a result of informal consultations held.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Holy See, Guatemala, Australia, France and Viet Nam.

19. At the same meeting, the Main Committee approved its draft declaration, as contained in document WCMRY/1998/L.10, as corrected, and agreed to transmit it to the Plenary of the Conference for consideration and adoption.

20. After the approval of the draft declaration, the representative of Senegal made a statement.

21. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Wilson (Philippines), introduced and orally revised her summaries of the discussion in the working groups on agenda items 9 (a) and (b), contained in documents WCMRY/1998/L.3 and L.5. For the final text of the summaries, see annex I below.

22. The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Mr. Minoves-Triquell (Andorra), introduced and orally revised his summary of the discussion in the working group on agenda item 9 (c), contained in document WCMRY/1998/L.11. For the final text of the summary, see annex I below.

23. Statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Algeria, Viet Nam, Namibia, the Cameroon, Botswana, Senegal, Belgium, Guinea, Mali and Australia.

Chapter V

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. At is 1st plenary meeting, on 8 August 1998, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee having a composition based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-second session, namely: Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, Russian Federation, United States of America and Zambia, on the understanding that if one of those States did not participate in the Conference, it would be replaced by another State from the same regional group. As Bhutan is not participating in the Conference, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, at its 4th plenary meeting, on 10 August 1998, decided that Bhutan would be replaced by the Philippines from the Asian States group.

2. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 10 August 1998.

3. Mr. Richard Carter (Barbados) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the secretariat of the Conference, dated 9 August 1998, concerning the credentials of representatives of States to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. The representative of the United Nations Legal Counsel made a statement relating to the memorandum by the secretariat of the Conference, in which she, inter alia, updated the memorandum by the secretariat of the Conference, indicating those credentials and communications received subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum.

5. As noted in paragraph 1 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, formal credentials of representatives to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in the form required by rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, had been received as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee from the following 44 States: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Holy See, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

6. As noted in paragraph 2 of the memorandum and the statement relating thereto, information concerning the appointment of the representatives of States to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth had been communicated to the secretariat of the Conference, as of the time of the meeting of the Credentials Committee, by means of a cable or a telefax from the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by means of a letter or note verbale from the Ministries, Embassies or Permanent Missions concerned, by the following 103 States: Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia,

Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

7. The representative of the Philippines made a statement expressing her country's gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the important work of the Credentials Committee.

8. The Chairman recommended that the Committee accept the credentials of the representatives of all States mentioned in the memorandum of the secretariat of the Conference, on the understanding that formal credentials for representatives of the States referred to in paragraph 6 of the present report would be communicated to the secretariat of the Conference as soon as possible.

9. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth of the States referred to in the memorandum of the secretariat of the Conference dated 9 August 1998,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the States concerned."

10. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

11. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the plenary of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth the adoption of a draft resolution approving the report of the Credentials Committee. The proposal was adopted without a vote.

Action taken by the Conference

12. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 12 August 1998, the Conference considered the report of the Credentials Committee (WCMRY/1998/27).

13. The Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in its report (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 5). The States that participated in the Conference are listed in chapter II, paragraph 3.

Chapter VI

ADOPTION OF THE LISBON DECLARATION ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

1. At the 8th meeting, on 12 August, the Conference considered agenda item 11 (Adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes).

2. At the same meeting the Chairperson of the Main Committee of the Conference, Her Excellency Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State for Children and Youth of Human Resources Development of Canada, made a statement.

3. The Conference then adopted the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, as contained in document WCMRY/1998/L.10. For the final text of the Declaration, see chapter I, resolution 1.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Solomon Islands and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

Reservations and interpretative statements on the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes

5. The representatives of Guatemala, the Holy See, Malta and the United States of America submitted statements which they requested the secretariat of the Conference to place on record. Those statements are set out below.

6. The representative of Guatemala submitted the following written statement:

"The delegation of Guatemala supports the general consensus reached at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, as reflected in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes.

"Guatemala wishes to express its recognition of the efforts made by delegations to adopt a text containing language acceptable to all; it also wishes to express its gratitude to the Government of the Portuguese Republic which, in cooperation with the United Nations, organized the deliberations that led to the Declaration.

"The Guatemalan delegation, consistent with the position it maintained throughout the discussions, and conscious of its responsibilities towards Guatemalan society, particularly in matters concerning young people, including children in the care of their parents or guardians, wishes to express its concern with regard to texts that fail to accord sufficient importance to parental rights, the family and human life from the time of conception.

"The delegation of Guatemala has followed the procedures for entering reservations established by the Conference in entering reservations set out below, which are in line with the principles established for entering reservations at the Fourth World Conference on Women; and with respect to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; they are also in line with the interpretation criteria used by Guatemala at the World Food Summit, which adopted the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and Plan of Action, and at the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court:

"1. None of the provisions of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the annexes thereto may be inconsistent with Guatemala's Constitution and laws or with international conventions to which Guatemala is a party.

"2. The Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the annexes thereto will be implemented in accordance with Guatemala's development priorities and its ethical, cultural and religious values, and with internationally recognized human rights and the philosophy of Guatemala's multi-ethnic, multilingual and multicultural people.

"3. Guatemala's interpretation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the annexes thereto is as follows:

"(a) There must be unqualified respect for the right to life from the time of conception;

"(b) The State must respect the right of parents to choose the education that they deem fit for their children, including sex education;

"(c) Marriage as a union of man and woman is the legal basis for ratifying and guaranteeing the social, economic and legal protection of the family; spouses have equal rights, and couples must exercise responsible parenthood and have the right to decide freely on the number and spacing of their children;

"(d) In accordance with the ethical, moral, legal and cultural views of the Guatemalan people, the term 'gender' and its underlying concept are to be interpreted as applying solely to the male sex and the female sex when reference is made to men and women.

"4. Guatemala reserves its position on all terms and concepts in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the annexes thereto, such as reproductive rights, sexual rights, reproductive health, regulation of fertility, sexual health, youth services, all forms of abortion, distribution of contraceptives and safe motherhood."

7. The representative of the Holy See submitted the following written statement:

"Having participated in the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998), the Holy See wishes to state that youth is not just personal property or the property of a generation: it is a possession of humanity itself. (John Paul II, Apostolic Letter on the Occasion of International Youth Year, 1985, n. 1).

"This Ministerial Conference has been a sign of the growing interest of the international community for the situation of young people, and the Delegation of the Holy See has offered with enthusiasm its own contribution, in order to arrive at a final Declaration. In this regard my delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Government of Portugal and to the United Nations Secretariat for having provided this important opportunity.

"Such a document is of great importance to provide inspiration for world politics in favour of youth - above all regarding the grave and urgent needs such as poverty, peace, education and health. The Holy See, however, has not failed to communicate some serious concerns regarding the final Declaration, during the preparatory part of the Conference as well as during the Conference itself, particularly its lack of any mention of the vital role of parents as regards their prior rights, as well as their duties and responsibilities for the guidance and education of their children. For this reason the Holy See herewith gives its partial consent to the document.

"Reservations:

"The Holy See, in conformity with its nature and its particular mission, by joining in the consensus to parts of the final Declaration of the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998), wishes to express its understanding of the Declaration of the Conference:

"1. Regarding the terms 'reproductive health care' and 'reproductive health', the Holy See considers these terms as applying to a holistic concept of health, which embrace, each in their own way, the person in the entirety of his or her personality, mind and body, which foster the achievement of personal maturity in sexuality and in the mutual love and decision making that characterize the conjugal relationship in accordance with moral norms. The Holy See does not consider abortion or access to abortion as a dimension of these terms.

"2. With reference to the terms 'family planning' and 'family life education' and any other terms regarding family planning education and services, the Holy See's partially joining the consensus should in no way be interpreted as constituting a change in its well known position concerning those family planning methods which the Catholic Church considers morally unacceptable or on family planning services which do not respect the liberty of the spouses, human dignity and the human rights of those concerned. Further, the Holy See reaffirms that education and information of young people on sexual and reproductive health is primarily and fundamentally the right, duty, and responsibility of parents.

"3. With regard to the terms 'young women' and 'young men' as regards their access to family planning services and reproductive health services, the Holy See reserves its position with the understanding that this is to mean married couples and the individual man and woman who constitute the couple. In this the Holy See wishes to give emphasis to the particular aspect of mutual love and decision making that characterize the marital relationship.

"4. With regard to the terms 'gender', 'gender-based', 'gender sensitive' and 'gender equitable', the Holy See reserves its position with the understanding that this is grounded in biological sexual identity, that is the two sexes, male and female.

"5. With reference to the terms 'family unit', 'family structures' and 'integrated perspective of families', the Holy See reserves its position with the understanding that these terms mean the family as the basic unit of society and in terms of marriage as an equal partnership between husband and wife in conformity with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

"6. With reference to all international agreements, the Holy See reserves its position in this regard, in particular on any existing agreements mentioned in this Declaration, consistent with its acceptance or non-acceptance of them.

"The Holy See delegation requests that this intervention be reflected verbatim in the final report of the Plenary of this Conference."

8. The representative of Malta submitted the following written statement:

"In joining consensus on the Lisbon Declaration on Youth, the Delegation of Malta would like to state that it reserves its position on the term 'reproductive health' as used in the document. The interpretation given by Malta is consistent with its national legislation, which considers the termination of pregnancy through induced abortion as illegal.

"The Delegation of Malta further reserves its position on those parts of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth wherein reference is made to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and to the final documents of the major United Nations World Conferences. In this respect the Delegation of Malta reaffirms its reservations as contained in the reports of the said World Programme of Action and of those Conferences.

"Furthermore the Delegation of Malta reserves its position on references to international instruments wherever these appear in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth, consistent with its previous acceptance or non-acceptance of them.

"We request that the text of these reservations be recorded in the report of the Conference."

9. The representative of the United States of America submitted the following written statement:

"In the interest of achieving a successful conclusion to this useful and worthwhile Conference we are willing to join consensus. The Declaration contains language that is not fully acceptable to us, some of which we noted in our discussions both in Lisbon and in New York. We would like, therefore, to make the following points and reservations.

"Interpretative statement of the Lisbon Declaration

"The United States understands that the phrases 'we therefore commit ourselves to' and 'we will therefore agree on the following' are consistent with the fact that the Declaration is not legally binding, and that it consists of recommendations concerning how States can and should promote the objectives of the Conference. The commitment referred to in the Declaration, therefore, constitutes a general commitment to undertake meaningful implementation of the Declaration's recommendations overall, rather than a specific commitment to implement each element. Accordingly,

the United States accepts these phrases on this basis, with the understanding that it does not alter the status of the document or the recommendations contained therein.

"Reservation on paragraph 59

"The United States strongly supports the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour. We believe that the successful conclusion by 1999 of a new ILO convention and recommendation aimed at eliminating the worst forms of child labour will be a critical step towards that end, and commend the support for that effort noted in this Declaration. Noting that the world community has recognized the pre-eminent role of the ILO in combating child labour, we further believe that in the interest of consistency the elaboration of various types of exploitation and child labour is best left to the ILO negotiation process.

"Finally, we regret that there is no mention of parents in this Declaration, which is aimed at raising the world's consciousness about young people and their needs. As Secretary Shalala noted in her speech in the Plenary, before we judge the younger generation we should remember who raised them. Parents and siblings are the most influential people in the lives of young women and men. We should have given greater attention to the challenge parents face guiding our youth to successful adulthood and leadership."

Chapter VII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

1. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 12 August 1998, the Rapporteur-General of the Conference, His Excellency the Honourable Mr. J. K. Marirmoi, Assistant Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, National Heritage, Culture and Social Services of Kenya, introduced and orally revised the draft report of the Conference (WCMRY/1998/L.7).

2. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft report as orally revised and authorized the Rapporteur-General to finalize it.

Chapter VIII

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

1. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 12 August 1998, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the African States, and Canada, introduced a draft resolution (WCMRY/1998/L.9), entitled "Expression of thanks to the people and Government of the Portuguese Republic".

2. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the draft resolution (for the text, see chap. I, resolution 4).

3. A statement was made by the representative of the United States.

4. After a statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations made a statement.

5. The President of the Conference then made a statement and declared the Conference closed.

Annex

SUMMARY REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

A. Summary submitted by the Chairperson of the Working Group, H.E. Ms. Isabel Caro Wilson (Philippines) on agenda item 9 (a): National youth policies of an intersectoral nature

1. Representatives emphasized the importance of an integrated national youth policy (NYP). In order to make the NYP truly intersectoral, socio-economic and technological changes must be taken into account. The intersectoral NYP must include and address both formal and non-formal education, training, employment, health, sports, arts and culture, civic education, drug abuse, promotion of youth participation.

2. To promote the process of developing an integrated NYP, representatives indicated that bilateral and multilateral donors can play a major role. There is a need to identify the strategies that donor countries and organizations can develop to promote the NYP. In this regard, it was suggested that contributions of donor organizations and countries should be directed at the micro level, for example rural communities and villages, instead of focusing on the macro level, because focusing on the macro level too often fails to translate in projects that reach the people that need it most.

3. Representatives also stressed that the NYP must connect youth to strategic goals of society. Youth problems are not isolated from the problems of society. They must be tackled within the national development plans, thus providing a holistic and integrated approach.

4. The participation of youth in the life of society was emphasized by many delegates. Youth must have the opportunity to influence decision-making processes. Programmes and policies that affect youth must involve them in the formulation, implementation and evaluation stages. Many young people and local youth organizations have vital skills that can be used by Governments in important areas of national development such as ecology, environment, medicine etc. Instead of bringing experts from outside to do such specialized tasks, young people and their local organizations can be used to do them. Youth volunteer schemes are important ways of enhancing youth participation.

5. It was mentioned that a distinction should be made between participation and active participation. Youth leadership is important in order to enhance the political participation in the life of the society.

6. Economic participation was mentioned as an important aspect of an intersectoral approach and cooperation.

7. The Working Group discussion highlighted the need to integrate effectively young people who are excluded because of anger, hostility and attitudes that do not conform. Their voices must be heard; they must be listened to. Also, parent education is important in order to prevent child abuse; such education should aim at preventing youth exclusion.

8. It was highlighted by representatives that youth issues are central in development work, and that there is need for more advocacy in that area so that

youth issues can be more prominent in development activities, policies and programmes.

9. It was mentioned that there is a need to link the national level with the local level, and that Governments must provide resources to facilitate that process.

10. Several delegates indicated that their countries did not have a national youth policy but that they had various mechanisms to address youth concerns, such as national commissions, youth ministers forums etc.

11. Delegates emphasized the importance of intergenerational dialogue. It was mentioned that there was a built-in bias in the system and in the minds and hearts of older people. Therefore, attention must be given to older people in that regard. Older people must be included in youth activities. It is important that governmental youth representatives should be youth-oriented, and preferably young.

12. The Youth Unit of the United Nations Secretariat was highlighted as a programme that needs to be supported and strengthened in order for it to carry out its work on national youth policy. The United Nations Youth Fund was mentioned as being important in this regard.

13. Several representatives called for recognition of the Braga Youth Action Plan (see WCMRY/1998/5) that emerged from the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System.

14. International cooperation was highlighted as an important way to assist countries that are not in a position to do all that is necessary to provide adequately for their young people.

15. It was stated that some countries are in the stage of moving from centralized government to decentralized government, and that youth affairs are affected by this change.

16. The Working Group's participants made several recommendations:

- The impact of intersectoral national youth policies should be reviewed and evaluated;
- A convention on the rights of youth should be developed;
- Experiences should be shared at the international level of the process of linking national government with local government and its implications for and its impact on youth policies;
- The United Nations should address the issue of youth in political leadership;
- Efforts should be made to develop youth leadership training initiatives. One way to do that is to identify and disseminate "best models" of youth leadership training programmes;
- An assessment should be made of the extent to which national youth policies assist youth in influencing decision-making processes.

- Social welfare programmes should be developed to assist families and youth suffering from social exclusion.

B. Summary submitted by the Chairperson of the Working Group, H.E. Ms. Isabel Caro Wilson (Philippines) on agenda item 9 (b): Relevance of the three themes of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace

1. Delegates emphasized the significance of youth participation. Several representatives indicated that participation is not possible without democracy. A prerequisite is a political system that encourages participation and development.

2. Representatives stressed that local knowledge and intellectual activities in developing countries must be given more attention in order to enhance effective participation. Participation is a matter of education. Informal education is an essential element of participation. Parent and family education provides an important way to build positive character and personality which are essential for youth participation.

3. Schools are teaching more but educating less. Education is not just what is received in school, but also what is received in the family. There is a need to structure educational institutions to the needs of different countries to take into consideration culture and environment. Education must start with the very young with a strong emphasis given to tolerance, especially religious tolerance, and respect for human rights.

4. It was also emphasized that it is important to give youth their own space to carry out their own projects. If youth is seen as a problem, the participation of young people will be restricted.

5. It was stated that participation can mean many things. There can be general participation and structured participation. Real participation requires allocation of resources. Participation without dialogue is not participation. The capacity for dialogue is not strong in young people, and the older generation must learn creative ways to enter into dialogue with young people. Dialogue must be active and passive at the same time. This will help to promote intergenerational dialogue.

6. Several delegates highlighted the idea and experience that sports and cultural expressions create opportunities for youth participation and development. They transcend all kinds of barriers, promote peace and reduce crime. Sports and culture can be used to integrate youth into the larger society. Music is an important element impacting on the lives and participation of youth. However attention must be paid to the messages sent by music and videos.

7. Representatives said that it is important to sustain youth participation once it has started. Often the structures put in place restrict the ability to sustain youth participation.

8. Many delegates highlighted the issue of the age at which young people can effectively participate. It is important for society to determine the age of different levels of participation. Youth must be involved in defining participation. Care must be taken not to limit participation based on age.

There is a need to develop inclusive approaches that will bring youth together as equal partners.

9. It was stated that because many countries have large populations, youth leadership is very important. Therefore youth leadership training programmes are essential.

10. For youth to participate effectively they must feel as if they have ownership of the process. Youth organizations should be led by young people if youth participation is to be effective. In addition, co-management of national plans should be promoted.

11. Participation and responsibility go together. The community, including parents, must be aware of the need to promote responsible participation. Socialization processes are directly linked to participation. Political participation often promotes divisiveness; therefore, participation initiatives must be apolitical. In that context, care must be taken not to manipulate youth. However, it is important to bring youth from all sides together to reduce divisiveness.

12. Services must reach the illiterate youth to increase their awareness and eventual participation. There is a need to mobilize unorganized youth for effective participation in society. Large sections of young people are unreachable. They are often marginalized and apathetic.

13. Delegates stressed the importance of peace. Mention was made of children as soldiers. Light weapons have an adverse impact on children and should be properly controlled and utilized. It was mentioned that attention should be given to the situation of youth in occupied territories. Conflict-resolution skills are an essential element in building the capacity of young people to participate in peace.

14. Representatives highlighted the significance of development. Global issues such as economic globalization, debt crises, and structural adjustment programmes are affecting the ability of many countries to provide resources for the economic, social and political participation of youth. Mention was made of the links between participation and development. Poverty was identified as a major obstacle to youth participation.

15. Several recommendations were made in the Working Group:

- Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations should actively implement the Braga Youth Action Plan;
- Initiatives should be developed to share examples of effective youth participation projects;
- More emphasis must be placed on promoting sports and cultural expressions to enhance and increase youth participation in development and peace;
- The United Nations system should help in building infrastructures for youth participation, development and peace projects;
- A United Nations rapporteur on youth rights should be developed to help in advancing youth participation;

- Leadership training programmes should be developed by the United Nations to prepare young people for effective participation;

- An international institute for youth with regional offices should be created, financed by non-governmental organizations.

C. Summary submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group, H.E. Mr. Juli Minoves-Triquell (Andorra) on agenda item 9 (c): Social development and major priority issues for action: education, employment, health, drug abuse and others

Global context

1. Each of the issues discussed in the Working Group were recognized as interrelated and connected. In addition, overall macroeconomic development trends were emphasized as key determinants of access to adequate and relevant education, employment opportunities and health services for young people. Some delegates stressed that economic globalization, free trade liberalization, structural adjustment programmes and the shrinking role of governments in development efforts, can contribute to limit opportunities for positive youth development. In that context, some representatives in the Working Group stressed the need to pay greater attention to the impact of global macroeconomic issues on national youth development, using the situation in the Caribbean as an example.

2. One delegate mentioned that youth is a process. If the affairs of society are planned well, we can effectively address the problems of young people. Some representatives expressed the view that the globalization process presents a major problem. The mechanisms currently existing in many countries have become obsolete in the face of a quickly changing environment. This should serve as a great part of the basis for planning for youth development. Other representatives emphasized the possibilities and opportunities that come with globalization.

3. Some delegates stressed that at the global level, resources are available but youth is yet to become a real priority. It was suggested by one delegation that there is a need for a global ethical response to the role of multinational corporations and the multilateral development institutions.

4. Some said that while it is obvious that young women and men in developing countries face serious obstacles to their development, young people in industrialized/developed economies also experience severe problems, such as violence, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, high unemployment rates and marginalization. One delegation called for experiences from other countries in dealing with marginalization.

5. Many delegates highlighted the importance of the Braga Youth Action Plan and called for its prompt implementation at all levels. Some delegates also mentioned that the participation of young people and youth organizations at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, especially in the Plenary, could have been improved.

6. More than 80 interventions were made in the Working Group. Several participants also presented the work of their respective Governments in the areas of discussion.

Education

7. Some representatives mentioned that education should be seen as an investment - not as an expense. Several delegates stressed that young people in many countries graduate with degrees but are unable to find employment. Brain drain was seen as a major issue. It was highlighted that the problem of young people dropping out of school early should be given more attention because this contributes, among other problems, to a low skilled workforce. The importance of equal access of young women and men to education was emphasized by one of the delegations. It was stated that illiteracy remains high in many countries.

8. Some representatives stressed that education for employment is not sufficient; education should be a tool for human and social development, and for promotion of values and social understanding. Equal access to knowledge and to new methods of information and communication is an important issue. Some delegates mentioned that technological education and computer literacy should be given more attention. Also, young people and youth development should be at the centre of education strategies. Some delegates suggested that education should lead to self-empowerment and to the maximization of inner personal resources, such as self-knowledge and self-respect. Lifelong learning should become a major element in education policy. Several delegates emphasized that recognition should be given to the rights of parents to provide guidance on education for their children.

9. Some representatives suggested that more attention needs to be paid to the recognition of qualifications within regions and between regions. One delegate indicated that international cooperation is also needed to facilitate mobility and recognition of degrees. The special needs of migrant and international students deserve further attention.

10. One delegate mentioned that the education problem is so large that it requires help from other sectors. It was also stated that education and training opportunities should focus more on local communities.

11. In some countries young people are leaving the formal education system; in others, young people are fighting to get into it. The educational methodology that is used in non-formal programmes is proving an effective complement to the formal education system.

Employment

12. Representatives stressed that in many developing countries weak economic growth and economic globalization are contributing to a lack of employment opportunities. The economic situation is the major cause for social inequities, which in turn leads to unemployment in many societies. One delegate stated that only a just economic system can create full opportunities for employment. This would include preferential trade for poor and economically weak countries.

13. Some delegates mentioned that employment opportunities are conditioned by who controls resources and that the role of multinational corporations makes it more difficult to ensure proper working conditions for young people. Unfair trade and working conditions impact adversely on youth unemployment. It contributes to poverty among young people and reduces youth participation. Emphasis must be placed on the social responsibility of multinational corporations. One delegate mentioned that in many countries the capital base is not large enough to absorb all people of working age and who are seeking employment.

14. Some representatives said that land grant initiatives have motivating effects on young people benefiting from them while others countered that land grants might create additional problems. One delegate stated that the privatization of land in many parts of the world creates another basis for unemployment. It was mentioned that farming must be made more rewarding for young people.

15. Small and microenterprises are one way of creating employment for young people. These enterprises provide dignity and resources needed for survival. Ways must be found to link small and microenterprises to the global level. Some delegations lauded the positive effects of micro-credit initiatives and reported their country's success in this area. Others countered that sometimes small and micro-credit schemes are used for political purposes; profit oriented schemes must be carefully developed in order to avoid that problem. It was said that resources can also be generated locally, through cooperative efforts to save for investments in community development.

16. Another issue which was addressed is that many young people are graduating with degrees but still end up being unemployed.

17. The recommendations from the Braga Youth Action Plan on Youth Employment for Social Development was mentioned.

Health

18. Representatives in the Working Group highlighted many issues in relation to the health of young people. A prerequisite for positive participation of youth in education and employment is good health. Issues affecting the health of young women and men include for example sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, wars and conflicts, physical and psychological changes of youth, suicide, tobacco and alcohol abuse.

19. Therefore, the key challenges facing youth health include the lack of political will to make youth a priority; the need to promote a comprehensive health service package for young people; the support for collection of age specific data and statistics on youth health and the need for greater coordination and collaboration of all actors involved. A cross-cutting theme is the need for youth participation in all aspects of health promotion for young people. The recommendations from the Braga Youth Action Plan were stressed as important tools for action.

20. Many delegates also emphasized the major role of parents and of the family in sex education. Others added that sex education can also be provided in schools, by government agencies, community organizations, etc.

Drug Abuse

21. Drug abuse and trafficking were recognized by delegates as major social problems. It was mentioned that it is linked to unemployment, education and the broader development context. The family is an important factor in helping youth combat drug abuse.

22. Youth from poor communities do not have enough opportunities for employment. In many cases, this problem leads many young people to become attracted to drug trafficking. In large cities, there is also a link between unemployment and drug abuse, violence and other street problems.

Recommendations:

Global context

- Programmes should be developed to train youth leaders on project management, globalization and social issues including education, employment, health and drug abuse from a cross-sectoral integrated perspective.

- Parents' rights, duties and responsibilities to provide appropriate direction and guidance to their youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, should be highlighted.

Education

- Creation of education systems that promote job opportunities should be enhanced.

- Education systems should be reformed to better reflect the new global realities in the context of national development.

- Strengthen and encourage partnerships to share knowledge and techniques between formal, informal and non-formal education to promote policies, programmes and opportunities to meet the needs of young men and women including use of new information technologies.

- Place youth and education higher on the various agendas at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Employment

- Vocational training programmes should be given more support by the international community.

- The Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral and bilateral agencies should finance youth enterprise programmes and projects.

- Employment schemes should be created, targeting young people most in need.

- Multilateral institutions should pay more attention to the creation of networking opportunities among young people involved in small and medium enterprises, to share experiences.

- The United Nations system, in close collaboration with youth NGOs, should undertake a comparative evaluation of the situation of youth employment programmes in different countries from different regions. This evaluation should emphasize programmes for disadvantaged youth, such as, but not exclusively, women, youth with disabilities, the long-term unemployed, indigenous peoples and migrants. (*Braga Youth Action Plan*)

Health

- The formulation/review of an integrated national youth health policy addressing major health issues referred to in the Braga Youth Action Plan.

- The provision of youth-friendly health services.

- Women should be supported in building networks to share information on health issues.

- The role played by the family in providing support and guidance to young people in matters relating to health and education should be emphasized.

- The international community should implement reliable research, monitoring and assessment concerning the health needs of young people with the full participation of youth and widespread and interactive exchange of information addressing those needs. It should also coordinate, in collaboration with youth organizations, the efficient peer-education training of young people in all spheres of life as referred to in the Braga Action Plan.

Financial issues

- Donors should ensure that their contributions are relevant to the countries' needs. Contributions should develop and strengthen each country's capacity for trade in the global market place. Donors should challenge countries to develop high standards of operation in order to make them stronger in the global community.

- The private sector should set up a fund to finance youth initiatives.

- The United Nations Youth Fund should be strengthened and further utilized to facilitate global initiatives in a cross-sectoral way.